

## Local Leadership

The process of identifying key landscape features and then discussing the conservation needs with those who care about the land is a powerful action. It provides a clearer picture of which critical natural resource concerns to address first, where they are on the landscape, and how they impact ecosystems. This can result in more effective, cost-efficient conservation on the ground -- motivated by communities that understand the land and what it needs from them.

Often, resources for addressing identified conservation concerns are from non-local sources. Federal, state, and local governments can channel assistance through local Conservation Districts and Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Councils.



## For More Information Contact Your NRCS/ Conservation District/ RC&D Office

Or visit <http://www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov>

**Belknap County**  
719 Main St. Room 203  
Laconia, NH 03246  
(603) 527-5880

**Hillsborough County**  
Chappell Prof. Center  
#468, Route 13  
Milford, NH 03055  
(603) 673-2409

**Carroll County**  
73 Main Street  
PO Box 533  
Conway, NH 03818  
(603) 447-2771

**Merrimack County**  
The Concord Center  
10 Ferry St, Box 312  
Concord, NH 03301  
(603) 223-6023

**Cheshire County**  
11 Industrial Park Drive  
Walpole, NH 03608  
(603) 756-2988

**Rockingham County**  
110 North Road  
Brentwood, NH 03833  
(603) 679-2790

**Coos County**  
4 Mayberry Lane  
Lancaster, NH 03584  
(603) 788-4651

**Strafford County**  
259 County Farm Road #3  
Dover, NH 03820  
(603) 749-3037

**Grafton County**  
250 Swiftwater Road, Rm 6  
Woodsville, NH 03785  
(603) 747-2001

**Sullivan County**  
24 Main Street  
Newport, NH 03773  
(603) 863-4297

**NRCS Field Office**  
Telly's Plaza,  
243 Calef Highway  
Epping, NH 03042  
(603) 679-1587

**NRCS State Office**  
Federal Building,  
2 Madbury Road  
Durham, NH 03824  
(603) 868-7581

**North Country RC&D**  
719 North Main Street  
Laconia, NH 03246  
(603) 527-2093

**Southern NH RC&D**  
The Concord Center  
10 Ferry Street, Box 4  
Concord, NH 03301  
(603) 223-0083

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Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

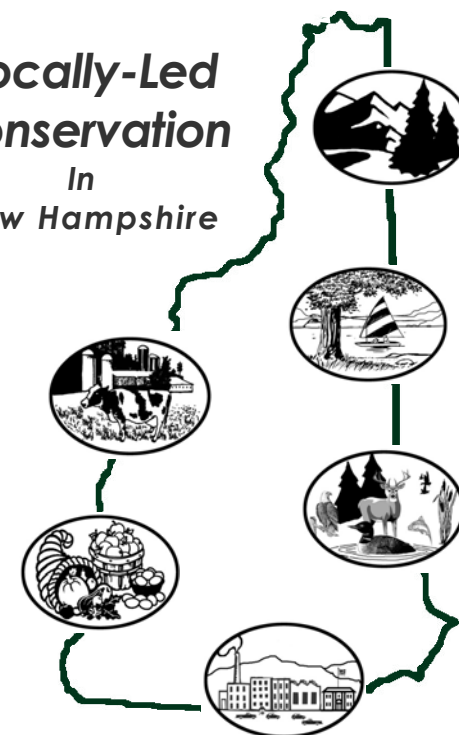


New Hampshire County  
Conservation Districts



New Hampshire Resource  
Conservation and  
Development Councils

## Locally-Led Conservation In New Hampshire



People Working Together for  
Their Natural Resources

# Locally-Led Conservation

Locally-led conservation is based on the principle that local people make the best decisions for their own communities. This was recognized even 60 years ago by the establishment of county conservation districts to address natural resource concerns. Then, 30 years ago RC&D councils were established to solve environmental, economic and social problems facing communities. Today, New Hampshire's ten Conservation Districts and two RC&D councils work together with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service through a locally-led process.

## How Does It Work?



Using Locally-led conservation typically involves a sequence of steps so that the entire community is involved in both planning and implementation. These steps include:

1. Reaching out to the public and bringing local stakeholders together
2. Using a needs assessment to analyze local issues and concerns
3. Setting local priorities based on public input and needs assessment
4. Identifying the resources available to address local needs and priorities
5. Developing and implementing a plan for action
6. Reviewing and evaluating needs and accomplishments

Every step in this process helps accomplish community goals. Involvement breeds commitment, and projects built on a locally-led process will have local benefits that the community can both experience and be proud of.

## How We Can Help



Keeping water clean is a partnership priority all over the state.

In New Hampshire, we have a Core New Hampshire Conservation Partnership that helps communities address natural resource concerns. Our ten County Conservation Districts and two RC&D Councils are made up of local people that help guide communities in this locally-led process. Facilitation of local

involvement is one of the backbones of the Conservation Partnership.

## The Natural Resource Concerns

Through the locally-led process, Conservation Districts, RC&D Councils and the Natural Resources Conservation Service are working on the following current conservation issues :



Healthy working land is one of the partnership's main concerns.

- Water quality
- Farmland protection
- Nutrient management
- Creative economic development
- Watershed education
- Ecosystem restoration
- Reducing erosion and sediment runoff in rural and urban communities
- And many others

## Get Involved

**We in the Conservation Partnership can't help communities accomplish their goals without committed local people. Please contact your local Partnership office to be part of the solution.**

*Contact the Partnership office in your county for more information (on back!).*

**See more of our work on the NRCS website [www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nh.nrcs.usda.gov), with links to the NH RC&D site.**